



Prevent Stormwater Pollution in Westminster

Everyone needs to do their part to reach our goal of clean healthy waterways in Westminster. Many people are not aware that most storm drains are connected directly into our wetlands, lakes, streams, and rivers. Unlike water that is used in your home or business, water that goes down a storm drain does not get treated at a sanitation facility.

Whatever flows down a storm drain comes out in a nearby waterway. As stormwater flows over land, down streets, and into storm drains, it picks up pollutants such as litter, lawn fertilizers, oil leaks from cars, winter sand and road salt, and pet waste. These pollutants can flow directly into our waterways.

You Can Be The Solution To Water Pollution...

Do Your "Doody"!



Pet waste can cause environmental and health problems if it isn't disposed of properly. Stormwater runoff may wash pet waste off the ground into wetlands, ponds, and streams either directly or via storm drains. Pet waste contains germs and nutrients

that can be harmful to human health and to our waterways. When you walk your dog, make sure to carry a plastic bag with you so that you can pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.

Green Lawns without Green Waters!



Test your soil and read the label before you apply fertilizer. If you use too much fertilizer, the excess will just wash away in the next rain, polluting your local waterways. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and walkways.

A lawn needs just one inch of water per week to be green. If you are watering more than that, a lot of that water is running off into the nearest waterway, taking your fertilizer, seeds, and hard earned money right along with it. Adjust your sprinklers so they don't water the driveway or sidewalk. Even better, use drip irrigation or soaker hoses.

Only Rain Belongs In the Drains!



When it rains, storm drains collect and channel stormwater runoff to prevent flooding. The stormwater ends up in local waterways, along with any litter, debris

and pollutants that were carried. Never pour any hazardous materials into a storm drain. This includes used motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, cleaning agents, pesticides or fertilizers and paint. Dispose of hazardous material at the next community hazardous waste day.



Add Beauty and Reduce Runoff!



Rainwater won't become stormwater pollution if you keep it on your property! You can plant a rain garden to absorb stormwater runoff. You can also use a rain barrel to help collect runoff

from your roof and gutters to be used on your lawn and garden.

Pay Attention to Odors!



If you smell sewage or see especially lush plants growing on your leach field, then your septic system might need attention. If your septic system needs repair, it might be polluting your local waterways. If it gets too bad,

it might back up into your home!

Keep Your Vehicle Clean and the Environment!

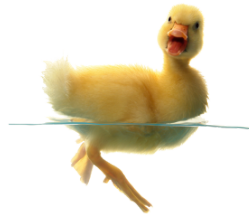


It's best to take your vehicle to a professional car wash. They have special equipment to treat all the dirty water they produce. If you wash your vehicle at home, it's best to park your vehicle on the grass, first, rather than leave

it on the driveway.

When you are working on your vehicle, take care to catch your used fluids in safe containers that you can take to a recycling center. Never dispose of these chemicals down a storm drain. If you spill anything, mop it up quickly.

Wait for Chlorine to Dissipate!



Pool owners should stop chlorinating as soon as they know they're going to drain the pool. Allow chlorine to dissipate for several days. Test the water to ensure the residual chlorine is zero before slowly draining to a landscaped area.

You know how your eyes can burn after too much time in the chlorinated water of a swimming pool? Imagine how that feels for the ducks, fish and frogs!

Compost it or Bag it!



Yard debris, including leaves and other organic plant material like shrubbery trimmings and grass clippings, are a significant source of stormwater pollution. This debris can clog culverts, storm

drains, and pipes - causing flooding.

Use yard waste, which includes grass clippings and leaves, in mulch or compost for your garden. If this is not an option, prepare all clippings and leaves for community composting or secured papers bags for disposal, which keeps them from washing into streams.